

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PRESS REACTION TO ATLANTIC DECLARATION SIGNING:

--USSR: TASS (IN ENGLISH) SAID THE DECLARATION BASICALLY REPEATS WELL-KNOWN PRINCIPLES OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC BLOC, AND TERMED THE DECLARATION "A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE STRIVING OF THE UNITED STATES TO PRESERVE ITS DOMINATING ROLE IN NATO AND THE PROPOSALS OF WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AIMED AT INCREASING THE ROLE OF WESTERN EUROPE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS."

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--FRANCE: LE FIGARO STATED THAT "HOWEVER SYMBOLIC, THIS GRAND MEETING OF THE ATLANTIC FAMILY WILL NOT ESTABLISH THE TRIUMPH OF AMERICA..." FRANCE-SOIR SAID THAT

THE BRUSSELS STOPOVER WOULD ALLOW THE PRESIDENT "TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW STRENGTHENED BY THE CONFIDENCE OF HIS ALLIES. THIS WILL ENABLE HIM, IF NOT TO SPEAK ON THEIR BEHALF, AT LEAST TO DISCUSS FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH."

--WEST GERMANY: THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION CAN BE EXPECTED TO "STRENGTHEN NIXON'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE USSR." DIE WELT ASSERTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S BRUSSELS STOP-

OVER ONLY SYMBOLICALLY DEMONSTRATED NATO SOLIDARITY AND REMARKED THAT "THE SOVIETS KNOW THAT THIS DEMONSTRATION WAS PRECEDED BY MUCH QUARRELING BETWEEN THE US AND ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES."

--BRITAIN: THE FINANCIAL TIMES SAID THAT THE NATO ALLIANCE IS NOW "FREE OF RANCOR" EVEN IN REGARD TO QUESTIONS WHICH "THE OTTAWA DECLARATION LEAVES TANTALIZINGLY VAGUE."

2. CANADIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN REMAINS UNCERTAIN: ALTHOUGH THE FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS SUPPOSEDLY MOVED INTO HIGH GEAR, IT HAS THUS FAR PRODUCED NO DISCERNIBLE TRENDS AND THE FINAL OUTCOME REMAINS OBSCURE. THE BEST ESTIMATE AT PRESENT IS THAT BOTH LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES WILL INCREASE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION SLIGHTLY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE NEW DEMOCRATIC AND SOCIAL CREDIT PARTIES. THIS SUGGESTS ANOTHER MINORITY COALITION GOVERNMENT, THE COMPOSITION OF WHICH IS STILL ANYBODY'S GUESS. (STATE)

3. NO RESUMPTION OF SOVIET-CHINESE BORDER TALKS: SOVIET DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN PEKING CAUTION THAT YESTERDAY'S RETURN OF LEONID ILICHEV AS HEAD OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION NEGOTIATING BORDER ISSUES WITH CHINA DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE TALKS WILL IMMEDIATELY RESUME. THE SOURCES ADD THAT ILICHEV DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE ON THE TWO MOST IMMEDIATE BORDER ISSUES--NAVIGATION RIGHTS AT THE SECRET

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JUNCTURE OF THE AMUR AND USSURI RIVERS AND CHINA'S CAPTURE OF THE SOVIET HELICOPTER CREW. (TICKER)

4. JORDANIAN MILITARY DISCONTENT RESURFACES: ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN NO PUBLIC INCIDENTS, RANK AND FILE DISSATISFACTION IS BECOMING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. THE CURRENT WAVE OF DISCONTENT, CAUSED BY THE SAME FACTORS WHICH LED TO THE EARLIER ZARQA INCIDENT, IS BASICALLY "LOYALIST" IN CHARACTER, BUT HAS GREATER FOCUS ON KING HUSSEIN PERSONALLY. THE LIKELY CONSEQUENCES OF THE CUR-

RENT MOOD ARE: (1) INCREASED BENEFITS AND LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE MILITARY, WHICH WILL CREATE A DRAIN ON THE GOJ MILITARY BUDGET; AND, (2) GREATER GOJ CAUTION AND SENSITIVITY, EVEN ON ROUTINE ACTIONS, IN ORDER TO AVOID ANTAGONIZING THE MILITARY. (STATE)

5. SADAT ON AID TO LEBANON, RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS:
IN A LEBANESE NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW, PRESIDENT SADAT MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

HE IS PREPARED TO SEND THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE TO

ASSIST LEBANON IN DEFENDING ITSELF AGAINST ISRAELI ATTACKS;

--THE EGYPTIAN ARMY WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST MODERN WEAPONRY, EVEN THOUGH NO SOVIET ARMS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED SINCE THE "CEASEFIRE";

--EGYPT'S DECISION TO VARY ITS SOURCES OF ARMS, ALTHOUGH IRRITATING TO THE SOVIETS, WAS THE DIRECT RESULT OF MOSCOW'S DECISION TO HALT ARMS DELIVERIES AT A TIME WHEN THE EGYPTIAN ARMY NEEDED MODERN WEAPONRY; AND

--BREZHNEV SHOULD VISIT CAIRO SO THAT BOTH SIDES CAN DEFINE PREVIOUS ERRORS AND OPEN A NEW PAGE IN SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. (TICKER)

6. LEBANON VERSES FEDAYEEN--A TOSS-UP?: A SENIOR UNTSO SOURCE SAYS THE LEBANESE ARMY IS NO BETTER THAN AN EVEN SECRET

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MATCH FOR THE PALESTINIAN FORCES, FINANCED BY LIBYA AND IRAQ; THE LEBANESE ARE POWERLESS TO INTERFERE WITH FEDAYEEN ACTIVITIES. (STATE) SISCO

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